As per the directive issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, environmental clearance is required for steel processing units which are having a Rolling Mill. Accordingly, action is underway for obtaining environmental clearance.

Exploring coal in foreign countries

2614. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), International Coal Ventures, which is being contemplated for exploring coal in foreign countries;

(b) the details of constitution and membership of committee to oversee the functioning of Coal Venture Fund; and

(c) the details of criteria for its membership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Government had approved the formation of International Coal Venture Limited (ICVL), promoted by Steel Authority India Limited (SAIL), Coal India Limited (CIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for securing metallurgical and thermal coal assets from overseas for use by the participating Public Sector Undertakings. ICVL has been empowered with autonomy and freedom accorded to Navratna companies, it has been incorporated as a company on 20.5.2009.

(b) and (c) No coal venture fund has been instituted for ICVL. However, the company has been authorised with an initial equity capital of Rs.3500 crores. SAIL and CIL are to contribute Rs.1000 crores each and the remaining three companies are to contribute Rs.500 crores each. A Review-cum-Monitoring Committee has been constituted to review periodically and monitor the progress and performance of ICVL with the following composition:

i) Chairman- Secretary (Steel)

ii) Member- Secretary (Coal) / Representative not below rank of JS

iii) Member- Secretary (Power) / Representative not below rank of JS

iv) Convenor- Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel.

Ship breaking facility at Alang

2615. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been commissioned by Government to scientifically improve the ship breaking facility at Alang;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken to train the labourers involved in ship breaking into the aspects of environmental and occupational hazards; and

(e) whether Government considers levying fee from the ship owners to provide better service conditions, health, safety and training to the labourers and their families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) As per the order of the Hon'bie Supreme Court of 17-02-2006, a Central Technical Committee (CTC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was set up to regulate various activities of ship breaking industries. The CTC gave its recommendations touching all aspects of ship breaking. The recommendations are operative by virtue of the Supreme Court Order dated 6-9-2007. Pursuant to the directives of the Hon'bie Supreme Court, a series of measures have been taken for attenuating the hazards of ship breaking and for improving the working conditions at ship-breaking yards. Consequently, detailed protocols and procedures have been put in place for scrutinizing ships arriving for breaking and for handling and disposing of hazardous materials and wastes. The provisions of existing rules take adequate care of the hazards of ship breaking. Further, as and when any shortcomings are noticed, remedial steps are taken.

(d) and (e) Gujarat Maritime Board is running the safety training and labour welfare institute at Alang. A total of 44,974 workers have been trained into the aspects of environment, safety and occupational hazards. It is mandatory to engage trained labours by the ship recyclers. As such, there is no proposal under consideration for levying fee from the ship owners.

Environmental hazards of ship breaking at Alang

2616. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ship breaking facility at Alang is still functional despite complaints of occupational and environmental hazards involved in ship breaking by semi or un-skilled labourers in unprotected working environment;

(b) if so, the details of ship breaking activity during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the details of the number of labourers involved in the ship breaking at Alang; and

(d) whether any study has been commissioned by Government to scientifically improve the ship breaking facility at Alang?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (d) Ship breaking activities are undertaken at Alang and the operational procedures are being followed as